Sweetwater
SweetNotes®
FALL 2011 Issue | Vol. 95
(800) 222–4700 I www.sweetwater.com

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from the editor

Mitch Gallagher
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Every couple of months, something wonderful happens here in my office: manufacturers send their new gear for review in *SweetNotes*. I suffer terribly with all of that gear cluttering things up around here… nah, it's a blast!

This issue was particularly fun because it made me take a serious look at my studio. I have a nice project studio, and I enjoy using it for a variety of projects. But for this issue, I received several products that were eye openers, particularly the PreSonus StudioLive 16.0.2 (pg. 9). Combine it with Reason 6 (pg. 8), Pro Tools 9, PreSonus's own Studio One, or any other DAW and a laptop, and you've got a rocking rig — plus you can use the mixer at your gigs. Add a Miktek C7 (pg. 10), an Aphex Channel (pg. 11), and a Roland Jupiter-80 (see below), and you've got a studio of epic proportions.

If you're still using older gear, that's great! But take a moment to scope out Sweetwater.com or our *ProGear* gear encyclopedia. The new tools available are less expensive, easier to use, and way more powerful than you can imagine. It's a great time to make music!

The Incredible Jupiter-80

Roland

Experience the Jupiter-80!
To watch a video of the Jupiter-80 in action, just scan this code with your mobile device!

One of the hottest and most talked about products on the market today is the Roland **Jupiter-80**. This is not a re-creation of the '80s Jupiter-8, although it does pay homage to its predecessor with road-proven hardware and massive sound. This is a modern synth that features Roland's SuperNATURAL synthesis engine. The SuperNATURAL engine is designed to re-create legendary vintage synth sounds and amazingly realistic organic acoustic sounds.

The Roland Jupiter-80 is an envelope-pushing synth with three separately programmable sound chains. Each sound chain has a filter, an oscillator, an LFO, and an amp, and you can combine up to nine sound chains for an amazing 27 oscillators — at once! Each oscillator can utilize one of seven vintage waveforms or one of over 350 PCM waveforms for unlimited tone-shaping combinations. The Jupiter-80 supports up to 256 polyphonic voices depending on the sound load. Also featured is an extremely powerful arpeggiator with 128 factory presets and another 128 presets that are user definable. And musicians will love that this board includes Roland's famous SuperNATURAL pianos, brass, strings, and more.

The Jupiter-80 was designed and laid out for live performance. A large LCD screen makes navigating the functions of the Jupiter-80 a breeze. After you have designed your own patches, you can save them as "Live Sets." A Live Set can stack up to four sounds, each with its own DSP, effects group, and level control!

There are a number of assignable knobs and buttons on the Jupiter-80, so you can create a custom layout. Roland's D Beam controller can be assigned to control parameters for a more dynamic performance. Control volume, Leslie speed, modulation depth, and more, all with your hand.

The USB port built into the Jupiter-80 allows you to easily record your creative musical ideas. It can also be used to provide backing tracks to play along with. Plus, you can save your Jupiter-80 settings to a USB key for recall and backup. Plug the keyboard into your computer and record directly to your DAW via USB MIDI.

Roland's Jupiter-80 features hundreds of amazing presets, a 76-key semi-weighted synth keyboard, stellar effects, cool arpeggiators, ultra-realistic SuperNATURAL instruments and sounds, and much more. Great in the studio or live onstage, the Roland Jupiter-80 is a force to be reckoned with.

>> Roland Jupiter-80
Sweetwater price $3499.00
www.sweetwater.com/Jupiter80

The Wechter Roundneck Resonator

The 2011 Summer NAMM show was a veritable candy store for guitarists. With so many new instruments and effects, it was difficult to take them all in! One very notable showing came from the new **Roundneck Resonator** guitar from Wechter Guitars. Available in both traditional and single-cutaway body styles, the Roundneck Resonator gives you the playability of a standard acoustic guitar, with the distinct tonal character of a resonator guitar.

Designed in collaboration with resonator legend Tim Scheerhorn, the 19-fret Roundneck Resonator sports a mahogany top, back, and sides, with a nato neck and a rosewood fretboard. It also features the premium Scheerhorn resonator cone for optimum tone. To top it all off, the Roundneck Resonator is given the same treatment as every Wechter guitar: a Plek Pro fret optimization for perfect action and sustain right out of the case.

Wechter is not new to resonator guitars. Abraham Wechter has been collaborating for years with the likes of Tim Scheerhorn and Rob Ickes to make some of the best-playing, best-sounding square-neck resonators available. Though the square-neck resonator is a favorite of bluegrass players, the traditional feel of the Roundneck Resonator guitar makes that unique resonator tone accessible to players of virtually any style of music. If you're looking for a great-sounding guitar with a world-class feel, check out Wechter's Roundneck Resonator.

wechter GUITARS

>> **Wechter Roundneck Resonator Cutaway**
Sweetwater price $825.00
www.sweetwater.com/RS6610FC

>> **Wechter Roundneck Resonator**
Sweetwater price $799.00
www.sweetwater.com/RS6610F

Hands On
Zildjian Gen16 Acoustic Electric Cymbals

By Mitch Gallagher

For many players, the cymbals in an electronic drum kit have been the weak spot. The cymbal sounds that e-drums produce can be stellar, but the feel of e-drum cymbals turns off some players. You could use real cymbals with your e-drums, but then you'd have to deal with volume issues — and you'd still have to mic them up in many situations.

What if you could play cymbals made from metal, ones that sounded great and felt exactly like "real" cymbals, but were still quiet enough to use with your e-drums? That's exactly what you get with the **Gen16 Acoustic Electric Cymbals** from Zildjian. The Gen16s are real cymbals that feature a unique perforated pattern. This pattern reduces their volume level by up to 75%! Yet the Gen16s feel and respond exactly as real cymbals do, because they are real cymbals.

The cymbals feature dual pickups underneath, in the cymbal mount. The signal from these pickups feeds into a controller module, which features DSP for processing the tone into full-blown cymbal goodness. You can either run the output of the module into your e-drum controller or run your e-drum module's output through the Gen16 module. Either way, you can create exactly the blend that you want.

There are several cymbals in the Gen16 family: 13" or 14" hi-hat, 16" or 18" crash, and 20" ride. The controller can accept up to five cymbal inputs, so you can create exactly the cymbal array that you want for your kit. In use, you'd swear you were playing real cymbals — the feel and response is exactly right. There's flexibility for shaping the sound as you desire, so you can custom-tailor your cymbals exactly as you like. And, because these are real cymbals, you can even play with brushes or mallets.

I can't think of a better solution for e-drum users. Practice, gigs, worship, schools… anywhere you need cymbals but have to control the volume, the Gen16 Acoustic Electric Cymbals provide the solution!

>> **Gen16 Acou. Elec. Cymbal Box Set (13" Hi Hat, 18" Ride)**
Sweetwater price $769.00
www.sweetwater.com/G16AEBS3

Take Control of Your Mixes — and Your DAW

We're always excited when we get something new from Focusrite — and doubly so this time. The brand-new **Control 2802** is both a fully featured analog mixer and a true hands-on DAW controller, built into one fantastic unit. As an analog mixer, the Control 2802 definitely shines. You get eight Class A mic preamps, a total of 32 inputs, and a host of routing options. This compact mixer also gives you a very convenient master section, an onboard stereo-mix bus compressor, and all the output connections you'll need. You'll appreciate the smooth feel and accurate performance you get from this mixer's nine motorized 100mm Alps faders. It's easy to make the Control 2802 the nerve center of your studio, but this incredible box is just getting started!

Focusrite®

The Control 2802 is also a full-fledged DAW controller, packed with all the functionality you need to take tactile control over your digital recording projects. Focusrite built the Control 2802 as a HUI-based interface, so it will work with most major DAW platforms. Plug into your rig via an Ethernet cable and you'll command faders, plug-ins, automation, auxes, and more — straight from the mixer. Well-placed transport controls and dedicated buttons make your workflow more efficient, and the channel setup is perfect for all kinds of digital recording setups. Call your Sweetwater Sales Engineer today and let the Control 2802 help change the way you record!

>> **Focusrite Control 2802**
Sweetwater price $4999.99
www.sweetwater.com/Control2802

iPad Flexibility Meets Pedalboard Performance

DigiTech by HARMAN

Anyone who's ever had to suffer through dialing in settings on a tiny LCD screen will certainly appreciate the sheer ingenuity of the DigiTech **iPB-10** programmable guitar multi-effects pedalboard. Unlike the primitive multi-effects pedals of the past, the highly sophisticated iPB-10 allows you to integrate your iPad or iPad 2 directly into its intuitive interface, providing you with an extraordinarily simple effects-programming environment as well as unparalleled visual feedback for live performance. Once you perform with the DigiTech iPB-10, you'll wonder how you ever got by without one.

Using the iPB-10's iPad interface, you can simply drag-and-drop the effects you want into any configuration you like. The iPad's multi-touch environment makes setting up your effects faster than even the most streamlined computer-based guitar-processing software. To tweak your effects, just grab hold of the virtual knobs and dial them in as you would with any hardware stompbox. And with 87 iconic stompboxes, 54 classic and modern amps, and 26 realistic cabinets to choose from, you're never going to run out of tones!

>> DigiTech iPB-10
Sweetwater price $499.95
www.sweetwater.com/iPB10

The guitar effects processor beneath the iPB-10's iPad-enhanced surface features DigiTech's top-of-the-line stompbox and amp modeling. Because all of the effects processing is done by the iPB-10 itself, you get both a huge range of sounds and serious effects-processing power even if you leave your iPad at home. Run up to 10 different pedal effects at once, plus an amp and a cabinet model. You can even store up to 100 custom pedalboards. And with both dedicated footswitches for individual pedals as well as presets, all of your favorite tones are just the click of a footswitch away. Talk about an amazing live guitar multi-effects box!

Egnater Amps
Now at Sweetwater

Great news: Sweetwater now carries a full line of Egnater guitar amplifiers! Tube-amp guru Bruce Egnater has been at the forefront of amp innovations for over three decades, and his latest lineup is living proof. From the studio-friendly Tweaker to the versatile Rebel to the stage-ready Renegade, this batch of tube amps has something for every player. Best of all, they're surprisingly affordable!

Thanks to Bruce's incredible amp designs, these heads and combos give you true tube-amp performance through and through — but they don't skimp on versatility. For example, the 30-watt Rebel-30 (see Hands On at right) gives you both Brit and American character, and is even capable of blending the two, as it's actually equipped with both 6V6 and EL84 power tubes. The Tweaker Head lives up to its name, with front-panel switches that let you take full advantage of its range of tonal flavors. You can go from clean sparkle to bluesy grind to thick sustain, in no time. This 15-watt, 6V6-powered tone machine makes an ideal studio or rehearsal amp that's also great for small live venues. It's also available in a 40-watt version. For stage-shaking 88-watt performance, check out the KT88-powered Tweaker 88 Head.

Egnater's Renegade Head (also available as a 1 x 12", 2 x 12", or 4 x 10" combo) uses both 6L6 tubes and EL34 valves in its engine room, so you can fill the stage with awesome tones — without filling up the room with amps. The Renegade is switchable between 18 and 65 watts, so this amp is perfect for all kinds of playing scenarios. We also carry a full selection of Egnater extension cabinets. Your Sweetwater Sales Engineer is here to help you find the Egnater amp that's perfect for you. Call us today!

Egnater™ CUSTOM AMPLIFICATION

To find out more about Egnater, check out
www.sweetwater.com/store/manufacturer/Egnater

Hands On
Egnater Rebel-30

By Mitch Gallagher

The paradigm for guitar amps has shifted radically in the past several years. Today, players are looking for amp solutions that provide tonal flexibility with good tone at manageable volume levels. For playing at home without annoying the family, for rehearsals, for worship band use, for club gigs, for school events… these days, an electric guitar player is expected to be able to match their volume level to the situation.

Hear the Rebel Yell!

Scan this code with your mobile device to see a video of the Egnator Rebel 30 being put through its paces!

Fortunately, manufacturers have responded with lower-powered amps, and among the best of these is the Egnater Rebel series. Egnater sent me a **Rebel-30** head and two matching **Rebel 112X** cabs for this review. Once I plugged in, it was clear that this was an amp that could provide almost any tone. It had loads of convenient features and could operate at any volume level, from bedroom to club stage.

The Rebel-30 is a 30-watt tube amp with a twist. It has dual power-tube sections, both 6V6 and EL84. What's more, you can use the Tube Mix control to "pan" between the tube types, from pure 6V6 to EL84, or any blend in between. This allows you to dial in the exact power-amp tonality you want, from chiming and punchy to smooth and sparkling.

For its front end, the Rebel-30 offers two channels: clean (with volume, bass, treble, tight, and bright controls) and dirty (with volume, gain, bass, middle, treble, tight, and bright controls). Each channel has its own reverb send control for the onboard digital reverb, as well as its own wattage control, which can adjust the output from 1 watt to 30 watts.

There are also an effects loop and a record/line output jack that is speaker compensated. You can route this straight into your PA system or DAW without having to mic up a speaker. In fact, you can hit the Silent Record button, and you won't even need to plug in a speaker at all. Yet you'll still get a full-bodied tone that sounds like a "real" amplifier with a mic on it.

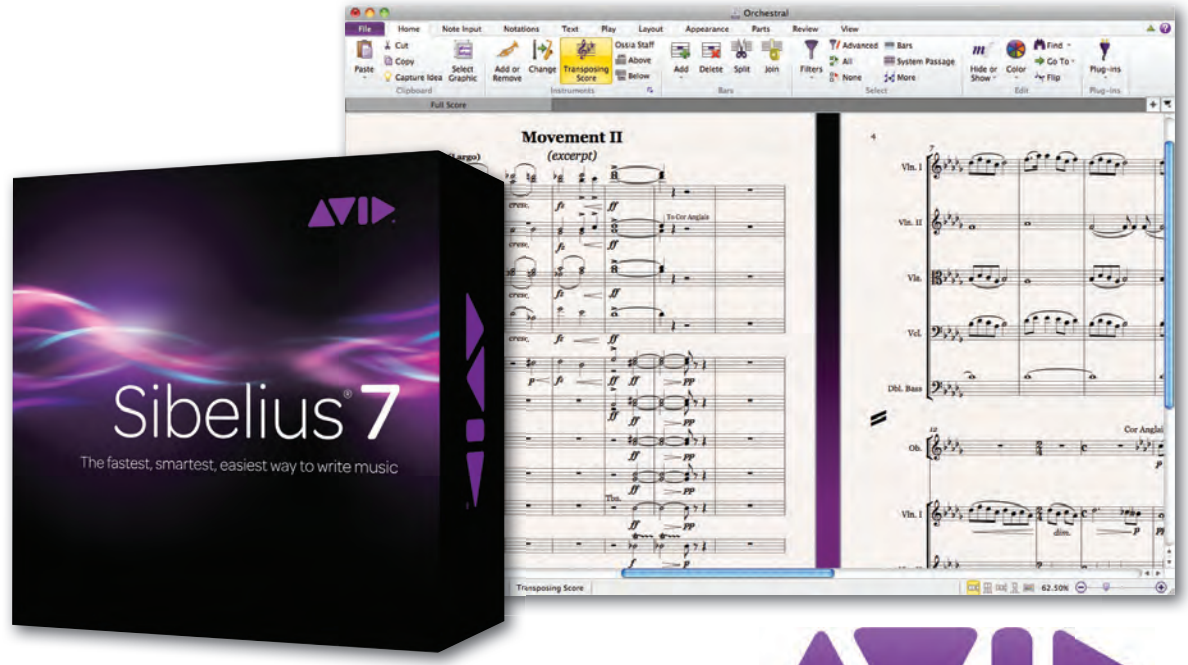
The matching 112X speakers are 1 x 12" cabinets with Celestion drivers. They're compact and lightweight, making them ideal for on-the-go use or discreet placement at home.

I was very impressed with the Rebel-30. With all the preamp and power-amp control it offers, I could easily dial up exactly what I wanted. This is one very flexible and powerful — yet controllable — amplifier.

>> Egnater Rebel-30 Head
Sweetwater price $749.99
www.sweetwater.com/Rebel30

>> Egnater Rebel 112X Cabinets
Sweetwater price $279.99 ea
www.sweetwater.com/Rebel112X

Avid Unveils Sibelius 7



If you work with notation software for music composition, be sure to check out the new **Sibelius 7** software from Avid. Professional composers, music teachers, and worship leaders have made Sibelius one of the most popular notation programs out there, favoring it for its ease of use and intuitive layout. So, what makes Sibelius 7 the best version yet?

Avid has redesigned the user interface of Sibelius 7 to be more task oriented. Along the top of the screen, you'll find the new "Ribbon," a set of tabs that gives you fast access to the most commonly used features in Sibelius 7. Functions such as Input Notes, Transpose, and Add Instrument are now just one click away, resulting in a faster workflow.

Sibelius 7 is 64-bit ready to take advantage of your computer's advanced processing power, allowing you to access more RAM than ever before. Also included is the most dynamic, expressive, and realistic instrument library ever included with Sibelius, allowing you to hear your compositions as you never have before. Not only do you get a plethora of orchestra and symphonic instruments to choose from, but you also get a wide array of new pop, rock, and jazz instruments. Marching band and drum corps arrangers should take note too, as Sibelius 7 includes the sounds of the Blue Devils, the world champion drum corps! This is the most realistic and detailed sound library available for any composition software.

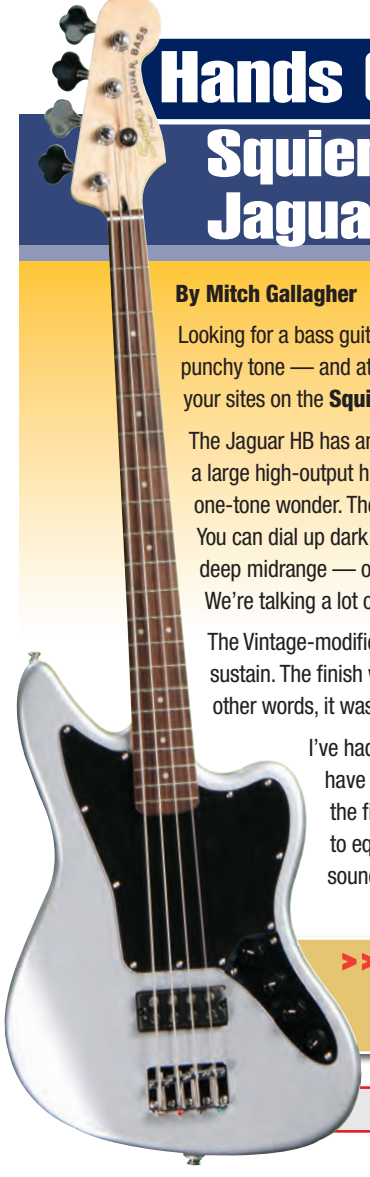
Sibelius 7 gives you enhanced options for printing and exporting your scores. You can export your work as a Music XML file for use with other music creation programs, making collaboration easier than ever. You can import Music XML scores created in other programs. Sibelius 7 makes it easy to export your work as a PDF file for simple sharing and archiving. And if you're printing scores of scores, Sibelius 7 gives you enhanced printing options that make double-sided printing easier than ever.

Avid has hit a home run with Sibelius 7. The majority of improvements focus squarely on enhancing the user interface and making it easy and intuitive for you to compose. There are more new features than can possibly be listed in this article — we haven't even mentioned the redesigned mixer or the advanced typography features that make text even easier to work with. Head to Avid.com for great videos that showcase how Sibelius 7 could be a serious benefit to your composition and arrangement workflow.

>> Avid Sibelius 7
Sweetwater price $479.99
www.sweetwater.com/Sib7

Hands On

Squier Vintage-modified Jaguar Bass Special HB



By Mitch Gallagher

Looking for a bass guitar that's easy playing, with thick, chunky, punchy tone — and at a price that won't break the bank? Set your sites on the **Squier Vintage-modified Jaguar Bass Special HB**!

The Jaguar HB has an agathis body and a maple neck with a rosewood fingerboard. It sports a large high-output humbucking pickup near the bridge for a tight, full sound. But this is no one-tone wonder. The Jaguar HB has an active 3-band EQ onboard for shaping the sound. You can dial up dark low-end rumble and thump, sparkling and cutting highs, and rich and deep midrange — or scooped midrange, if that's your thing — with a simple twist of a dial. We're talking a lot of flexibility. You won't at all feel limited by having just one pickup.

The Vintage-modified Jaguar Special HB that I received played great and had excellent sustain. The finish was flawless, and the bass had no problems with noise, hum, or hiss. In other words, it was a fine instrument, right out of the box.

I've had the chance to play a number of different Squier basses recently, and I have to say, regardless of the price, I've been blown away by the build quality, the finish, and the woods, as well as by the playability and tone. It's hard to equate how nice the Vintage-modified Jaguar Bass Special HB feels and sounds with how much it costs. This is one nice bass!

>> Squier Vintage-modified Jaguar Bass Special HB
Sweetwater price $199.99
www.sweetwater.com/JagBsVMHSlv

Cool Pedalboard

The SKB **FootNote** pedalboard/combo amp has to be one of the best-thought-out tools ever for guitarists. Whether you're a pro player looking for a portable rig you can take anywhere or simply someone who's on the go, the SKB FootNote is just what you need! It accommodates a half dozen stompboxes and provides power for up to eight pedals. And when AC power isn't an option, you can easily switch the FootNote over to battery power.

This FootNote Rocks!
To see — and hear — the FootNote in action, scan this code with your mobile device!

But the FootNote defies conventional pedalboard logic with its built-in 6-watt amp with a 6" Eminence speaker, perfect for solo practice. An 1/8" stereo input lets you hook up your MP3 player and rock out to backing tracks. And when the sound of even a 6-watt amp is too much, you can operate in stealth mode by plugging in your headphones.

Onstage, you'll find the onboard combo amp indispensable for dialing in your effects before the show. It's like having a pedalboard monitor — how cool is that? The FootNote also gives you a built-in cable tester, which can be a real lifesaver. And for the more intimate shows, you can run the FootNote's line-out straight into the PA and use it as a monitor. You can also use the speaker output to plug into an external cabinet. Talk about flexibility!

SKB obviously had their thinking cap on for this one. The FootNote's design makes it clear that they're listening to guitarists and understand what they need. Call your Sales Engineer today to get your hands (and feet) on this new guitar super-tool!

>> SKB FootNote
Sweetwater price $179.99
www.sweetwater.com/FootNote

Antelope Audio Zodiac

If you're extremely picky about your audio listening, then we have the product for you. The Antelope Audio **Zodiac** is a high-definition D/A converter with rates up to 192kHz and a dynamic range of 129dB — this is audiophile-quality sound. The Zodiac features Antelope's renowned oven-controlled clock, which is a shielded container that keeps the temperature constant, bringing significant benefits to the detail, dynamics, and stereo placement of your audio. Also, the Zodiac's high-end 64-bit algorithms allow for exact control over clocking and jitter management.

Sound engineers will love the flexible I/O options of the Zodiac. There are even fine level trimmers on the balanced analog outputs for calibrating the Zodiac with the rest of your gear. What's more, with a number of different inputs available, the Zodiac can be your ultimate source switcher. The balanced and unbalanced inputs give you the flexibility to put all of your gear into service, and the Zodiac even features automatic detection of connected devices, so selecting what you want is easy.

The amazing stereo imaging lets you truly hear your session tracks and mixes as never before. Being able to hear every little detail and nuance lets you create a better mix, one that should translate well to other systems. The Antelope Audio Zodiac is a standout choice for studios as well as audiophiles who want the most out of their systems. Let the Zodiac show you what you've been missing.

>> Antelope Audio Zodiac
Sweetwater price $1695.00
www.sweetwater.com/zodiac

Honest Monitors

Your monitors can make or break your recording. But you can stack the deck against a bad mix with Pelonis **Model 42** studio monitors. Part of a line of acclaimed critical-listening monitors, the Model 42 is an active bi-amped system powered externally by four 100-watt amplifiers with 96K DSP, housed in a single rackmount unit. A 5-band parametric EQ lets you tailor the sound to your room.

Chris Pelonis has a long-standing reputation for designing musical and transparent-sounding facilities. In addition to his work as an acoustical designer, consultant, and manufacturer, Chris is also a professional musician, an engineer/producer, and a studio owner, so he possesses both the in-front-of- and behind-the-board perspective that allows him to design monitors that translate to the world outside the studio.

The Model 42's electronics are housed externally. That's a result of Chris's belief that nothing good can come from having electronics in the same enclosure as vibrating transducers. Fair enough. In keeping with the purist design philosophy, the Model 42 employs a pair of 4", 2-way dual-concentric speakers. Extreme attention has been paid to time-domain accuracy and phase coherence, ensuring that the drivers' outputs reach your ears at the same time. The Model 42 is a desktop-friendly monitoring system that clearly reveals your tracks, allowing you to make wise recording and mixing decisions.

>> Pelonis Model 42
Sweetwater price $999.00
www.sweetwater.com/model42

Thousands of Sounds to Spark Your Creativity

Native Instruments' **Komplete 8** and **Komplete 8 Ultimate** have arrived! These two amazing virtual instrument and processor bundles are changing the way people everywhere are writing music. If you're looking for the perfect plug-in package to amp up your creativity, Komplete 8 is it.

The standard version of Komplete 8 gives you 27 incredible virtual instruments and processors. In all, you get a massive 110GB of content covering over 11,000 sounds! What's more, Komplete 8 includes all of NI's flagship products, such as Kontakt 5, Reaktor 5.6, and Guitar Rig 5 Pro. And that's just the beginning. You also get great new instruments, such as the inspiring West Africa percussion instrument and the addictive The Finger stutter effect.

Want even more? Check out Komplete 8 Ultimate! This bundle gives you the entire Kore sound collection. Its staggering 240GB of content spans 50 products and over 15,000 sounds — so much content that Komplete 8 Ultimate comes on its own USB hard drive. If you spent 30 seconds exploring each sound in Komplete 8 Ultimate, It would take over five days before you got through them all.

In addition to premier instruments and plug-ins, you get incredible new instruments. If you're into analog-style synths, you're going to love Razor and the all-new Retro Machines MK2. On the acoustic side, Session Strings Pro lets you add the impressively dynamic sound of a full orchestra. Studio Drummer adds wonderfully realistic drum grooves to your tunes. Or you can pair up Alicia's Keys and the Scarbee collection of bass and guitar instruments to quickly and easily produce impressive modern arrangements.

Whichever version you choose, no musical style is beyond reach with Komplete 8. And when you pair up these amazing plug-ins with Maschine (see below), you get Kore-style browsing, with thousands of sounds right at your fingertips. Plus, there are excellent upgrade/crossgrade options available, so getting into Komplete 8 is surprisingly affordable. Call your Sales Engineer to find out more about these amazing bundles today.

>> Native Instruments Komplete 8
Sweetwater price $499.00
www.sweetwater.com/Komp8

>> Native Instruments Komplete 8 Ultimate
Sweetwater price $999.00
www.sweetwater.com/Komp8Ult

Hands On

Native Instruments Maschine

By Mitch Gallagher

There's a reason that groove boxes such as the MPC and the SP1200 remain in high demand. They're the perfect tools for putting together a beat or even constructing an entire song. But wouldn't it be cool if you could combine what a groove box does with the advantages of a computer? And wouldn't it be even cooler if you still had the same sort of hands-on control over your grooves and song production when using a software version as you did when using a hardware groove box?

Enter Native Instruments' **Maschine**, a combination of groove/song-production software and an integrated hardware controller that connects to your computer via USB. Maschine offers everything you need for sampling, beat creating, groove work, and even entire song production. It can run standalone or as a plug-in within just about any Mac or a Windows DAW.

Maschine includes more than 6GB of material, plus you can add/create your own sounds, loops, and patterns. And we're not talking just hip-hop and electronica here. With its acoustic drum sounds, you can use Maschine to easily create drum/rhythm tracks for any style of music. But if you are working in groove-box-friendly genres, Maschine is simply an ideal tool.

The key words in that last paragraph are "easily" and "simply." With the tight integration of the hardware controller, you barely need to look at the computer screen at all. So, when you're cranking out grooves, you won't be distracted by the computer.

A great addition to Maschine is that it can now accept VST and Audio Units plug-ins. You can use either processing plug-ins or virtual instruments. You can apply plug-ins to individual sounds, to loops, to entire parts, or to the overall mix. And here's a cool bonus: when you run Maschine as a plug-in within a host DAW, you can load plug-ins into the Maschine plug-in. It's amazingly powerful and flexible.

From capturing sounds to programming beats, from arranging songs to designing intricate grooves, Maschine does the job. Native Instruments did it right with this one.

>> Native Instruments Maschine
Sweetwater price $599.00
www.sweetwater.com/maschine

SYNTH TRICKS

By Daniel Fisher

Battle of the Lightweight Organs

Yeah, I know, I always want to eat my cake and still have it too. I should just be happy that my bandmates and I never have to carry a 420-lb. B-3 organ up to the stage, along with a 140-lb. Leslie. And yet, I keep searching for an even lighter and better-sounding "clonewheel" to use with my rig. This new generation of drawbar organs brings the weight down well below 30 lbs., and some of them are less than 20 lbs.

Here are some of these lean, mean grinding machines now in stock at Sweetwater:

First up is the **Numa Organ** by StudioLogic ($1995). It was designed in cooperation with Joey DeFrancesco, one of my all-time favorite B-3 players. And the sound is "just right," whether it's for jazz, rock, or worship. The Leslie emulation is spot-on, and the nine drawbars and waterfall keys feel great. The controls are easy to understand, as each knob and button is dedicated to whatever is written under it. No menus = no learning curve. There are 61 keys for the organ and an additional 12 inverted-color keys to store your presets. (But as a MIDI controller, you can use all 73 keys!) And yet it weighs only 22 lbs.!

Next up is the Nord **Electro 3** ($1999). It features a splittable 61-note waterfall keyboard that offers four tonewheel organ types as well as the Vox Continental and the Farfisa. It also sports three acoustic grand pianos, two electric grands, four Rhodes electric pianos, an A200 A Wurlitzer, a Clavinet D6, and even a harpsichord. Onboard sample memory gives you classic Mellotron instruments and more from Nord's famous Sample Library. And all of this tremendous sound weighs in at just over 15 lbs.!

And finally there's a lightweight offering called the **SK1** ($1999). Does it sound like a Hammond? It is a Hammond! This 15-lb. wonder has all the B-3 features you want plus a healthy serving of transistor organs (Vox, Farfisa) and pipe organs that all use the drawbars as the sound-shaping controls — just like on the originals! The 61 splittable keys also offer pianos, electric pianos, Clavs, accordions, string synths, wind instruments, and tuned percussion. It can also play back MP3 and WAV songs for a killer one-man show.

Which of these clonewheel organs has the right sound for you? Well, as Frank Zappa said, "Talking about music is like dancing about architecture." Go to Sweetwater.com and put the word "organs" in the search field. You'll find lots of video demonstrations to help you decide. And don't be afraid to ask your Sweetwater Sales Engineer for additional advice.

Before I finish, I'd like to throw in this organ-related announcement. If you own a Kurzweil PC3 or PC3K, you must get the latest OS Update (2.03) and Objects. As a reward, you will find that the KB3 organs have gotten even better, and there are new Dual-Leslie effects available that will bring a smile to your face.

Sweetwater Welcomes Chameleon Labs

We're excited to welcome Chameleon Labs to Sweetwater! Chameleon Labs bills itself as a company that produces "value-conscious audio." Their products' high level of performance does indeed bely their affordable prices, but things really get interesting when you realize just how high Chameleon Labs has set the bar. Inviting comparisons with such legendary gear as the Neve 1073 is not for the faint of heart; however, that is the name of the game at Chameleon Labs.

A prime example is the **7602 MKII**, Chameleon Labs' version of a '70s British console preamp with powerful 3-band EQ. While taking full advantage of modern analog precision circuitry, the 7602 MKII serves up distinctly Neve-like sonics and operation. The X-MOD upgrade adds a Carnhill transformer — the same one used in the 1073. It's little wonder that many of today's top recording engineers have made the 7602 MKII their go-to mic preamp.

If you crave the supremely musical sound shaping of the classic LA-2A but don't particularly want to take on a second mortgage, Chameleon Labs offers their **7802** stereo tube optical compressor. They've based their **7720** stereo bus compressor on VCA designs found in the high-end large-format consoles of the '80s and '90s. In keeping with the affordable classic-performance-with-modern-functionality theme, the **TS-1 MKII** is a tube mic with interchangeable omnidirectional and cardioid small-diaphragm capsules, which — and here's the kicker — may be switched out for the *included large-diaphragm capsule*.

So that's Chameleon Labs: innovative, warm and punchy, great-sounding gear with a vintage vibe — and an exceptional value.

>> **Chameleon Labs 7602MKII**
Sweetwater price $719.00
www.sweetwater.com/7602mkii

>> **Chameleon Labs 7802**
Sweetwater price $769.00
www.sweetwater.com/7802

>> **Chameleon Labs 7720**
Sweetwater price $499.00
www.sweetwater.com/7720

>> **Chameleon Labs TS-1 MKII**
Sweetwater price $599.00
www.sweetwater.com/TS1mkii

Hands On FXpansion Geist

By Mitch Gallagher

Producing beats? If so, you need **Geist**! FXpansion introduced this software at the Winter NAMM show last January, and since then it has become one of the go-to tools for those who need to get down and dirty with their loops, beats, and samples. But Geist is more than just a beat-production tool. It's also a powerful drum machine that can crank out the rhythm for any style of music. And it's a one-stop solution for perfecting and producing exactly the sounds you want on your rhythm tracks.

Geist is a virtual instrument for Mac or PC. It can run standalone or as an RTAS/Audio Units/VST plug-in. It is compatible with 64-bit hosts. One of the more amazing benefits of Geist is that you can simply click on a loop to detect the hits it contains, to slice it up into its components, and to automatically assign those individual hits to Geist's drum pads. From there, you can sequence your tracks, create patterns and songs, and even process the sounds with onboard effects taken from FXpansion's powerful DCAM — compression, filters, drive, and more, as well as the Overloud Breverb reverb algorithm.

There's a powerful and user-friendly browser for finding what you need, as well as MIDI support, great export options, and tons more. You can automate parameters, and sample and pattern recording (with "retro capture," so you won't miss any cool licks) is supported. In other words, Geist is a fully featured workstation. Either live or in the studio, it can do the job.

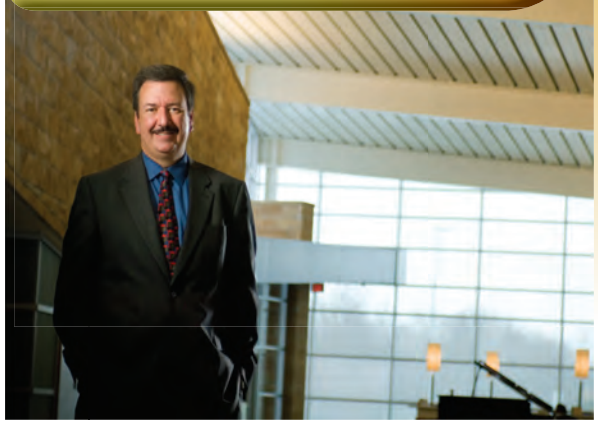
In use, the software is easy to navigate. Beats are classified and tagged, so you can find just what you want. Geist comes with tons of sounds and patterns, including presets from some of the biggest names in the business.

For a virtual sampling drum machine or a beat-production workstation, look no further than Geist. This is one powerful tool!

>> **FXpansion Geist**
Sweetwater price $249.00
www.sweetwater.com/geist

Inside Sweetwater

Music Instruments & Pro Audio



By Chuck Surack

Sweetwater has always been a technology-driven company. In fact, technology is the reason I started the company. I had purchased a Kurzweil K250 — a groundbreaking keyboard — for my recording studio. I developed my own sound library for it, which I sold to K250 users around the world. Those sound-library customers began calling with technical questions, and to purchase upgrades and add-ons for their keyboards. The Sweetwater retail store was born!

We've stayed on the forefront of technology ever since, helping our customers to advance their studios and live rigs with the latest high-tech music/audio devices. We also run the company on the latest network and database tools. And, of course, we're on the cutting edge of the Internet, with the first music retailer site and many other firsts, including our Guitar Gallery, Cable Finder, and much more.

You'd think, with all that technology surrounding us, we'd get jaded about it. But that couldn't be further from the truth. A great example: We were holding a press conference to celebrate the expansion of our retail store as well as our new status as the exclusive regional retailer of Yamaha grand pianos, Disklaviers, and Clavinovas. Part of the event included having keyboardist Mike Garson — a virtuoso who has played with David Bowie and many others — play a Gershwin medley on a Yamaha grand.

Technology in Action!

Scan this code with your mobile device to watch a video of Mike Garson performing cross-country with the Yamaha Disklavier!

But the interesting thing was that Mike was actually in L.A., playing a Disklavier. The data from his performance was sent in real time over the Internet and routed to a Disklavier in our showroom. It was amazing to watch Mike playing in L.A. via a video feed and to see the keys and pedals on the Disklavier moving and the sound coming from the piano in front of us.

What an incredible display of how far technology has come — and how exciting to be part of it! And there's nothing we love more than sharing that excitement with you, all in the name of improving the music and audio we all create.

If you'd like to see Mike Garson's remote performance, you can check it out at http://youtu.be/xgab1Ulij6A.

SONY

New Headphones from Sony!

For years, Sony's MDR series headphones have been the first choice for many studio pros, live sound engineers, and DJs worldwide. With that kind of popularity, engineers all over should rejoice at two new headphone models from Sony: the **MDR-7510** and the **MDR-7520**.

The MDR-7510 headphones feature Sony's 50mm Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) diaphragms and sport a wide frequency range of 5Hz–40kHz. They're ideal for headphone monitoring during studio sessions. They also feature great noise rejection, making them perfect for performing DJs and live sound engineers.

The MDR-7520s feature Sony's high-tech Liquid Crystal Polymer (LCP) film diaphragm, which gives you amazing sound quality and an ultra-wide frequency response — from 5Hz to 80kHz!

Unlike the classic "on-ear" Sony headphones, these new models are "over-the-ear" designs, so they're ideal for mixing applications where isolation and comfort are important but monitoring accuracy is paramount.

Call your Sales Engineer to learn more today!

>> **Sony MDR-7510**
Sweetwater price $129.99
www.sweetwater.com/mdr7510

>> **Sony MDR-7520**
Sweetwater price $424.99
www.sweetwater.com/mdr7520

Gibson Melody Maker Series

Gibson has released an expanded line of limited-edition **Melody Maker** guitars. Originally introduced as a student model, just as the Les Paul Junior was, the Melody Maker became a player's favorite for its light weight, comfortable neck, and great tone. In fact, it was Gibson's best-selling guitar in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Unlike the single-coil Melody Makers of the past, this new line of Melody Makers features a ceramic-magnet humbucker controlled by just a simple volume knob. The 2011 Melody Maker series features four models: a Les Paul, an SG, a Flying V, and an Explorer.

Melody Maker guitars feature mahogany bodies and glued-in mahogany necks. One distinguishing feature from the typical Gibson design is that these guitars feature torrified maple fretboards. Torrified wood has been heat treated or roasted until it has nearly 0% internal moisture. As a result, these fretboards will not reabsorb moisture. Each model features a 12" fretboard radius and 22 frets. Melody Makers are available in three colors: Satin White, Satin Black, and Satin Blue.

The electronics setup in the Melody Makers is plain and simple: one volume knob and one pickup. Unlike the original Melody Makers, which were outfitted with single-coil pickups, this series features ceramic-magnet humbuckers. The wraparound tailpiece and set neck give these guitars great sustain. Vintage Kluson-style tuners with white buttons ensure solid tuning. Each guitar comes with a gig bag to protect it between gigs. These Melody Maker guitars show Gibson's continued dedication to producing affordable American-made guitars that any musician can own.

To learn more about the Gibson Melody Makers, visit Sweetwater.com or call your Sales Engineer.

>> **Gibson Les Paul Melody Maker**
Sweetwater price $539.00
www.sweetwater.com/mmlpsuch

>> **Gibson SG Melody Maker**
Sweetwater price $539.00
www.sweetwater.com/mmsgsech

>> **Gibson Flying V Melody Maker**
Sweetwater price $539.00
www.sweetwater.com/mmfvsuch

>> **Gibson Explorer Melody Maker**
Sweetwater price $539.00
www.sweetwater.com/mmexswch

500 Series Goodness from Tonelux

Want to put together that perfect signal chain on the way to your recording rig? Tonelux's **MP5A** preamp, **EQ5P** equalizer, and **TXC** compressor modules make your mics and instruments shine at the front end. Tonelux mastermind Paul Wolff gave each of these great-sounding modules a fully discrete design and equipped them with custom op-amps, for outstanding performance and low-noise operation.

The MP5A gives you both XLR and hi-Z inputs on its front panel, so you can plug in a mic or an instrument. It includes Tonelux's TILT EQ control, which lets you boost highs and cut lows — or vice versa. A space-saving concentric knob lets you tweak both the input gain and the output level. This feature-packed preamp also includes a 20dB pad switch, switchable phantom power, and a phase switch.

Tonelux's EQ5P equalizer module lets you add vintage vibe to your signal, thanks to its Constant Energy Curve control. As you boost and cut frequencies on this 4-band parametric EQ, you get the kind of sonic flavor you'd expect from a classic EQ.

When you want to tame transients or make your voice or instrument sit perfectly in the mix, plug into the TXC compressor. This module lets you dial in the compressed signal without losing the punch of the original sound — great for kick drums. The TXC even includes Tonelux's TILT EQ (as found on the MP5A) in the sidechain for even more flexibility.

Put any of these premium modules into your 500 Series rack, or build a channel out of all three, and you'll notice an instant improvement in your sound — right at the source! Call your Sales Engineer for more information on these modules!

>> **Tonelux MP5A Preamp**
Sweetwater price $785.00
www.sweetwater.com/MP5Pre

>> **Tonelux EQ5P Equalizer**
Sweetwater price $949.00
www.sweetwater.com/EQ5P

>> **Tonelux TXC Compressor**
Sweetwater price $949.00
www.sweetwater.com/TX5C

Sweetwater MINUTE Reaches 100th-episode Landmark!

We've been posting our weekly *Sweetwater Minute* online video series, hosted by Sweetwater Editorial Director Mitch Gallagher, since 2009, and in that time we've been lucky enough to have many exciting episodes. In July, we reached our 100th episode! Though we were excited to reach this milestone, the episode itself was extra special. The legendary producer/engineer/artist Alan Parsons was the keynote speaker at Sweetwater's GearFest 2011, and he was generous enough to take the time to make our 100th *Sweetwater Minute* one to remember.

Sweetwater founder and president Chuck Surack remarked, "When the weekly *Sweetwater Minute* videos debuted back in October of 2009, the thought of posting our 100th episode seemed like an unattainable goal. We have great plans for the future of the *Sweetwater Minute*, and we're looking forward to posting many more fun and inspiring installments."

The Sweetwater Minute includes gear demos, interviews, guest artists, producers, and engineers, and much more! There's something for everyone. If you haven't seen the show, you'll want to catch each episode as it is posted — as well as catch up on past installments. The *Sweetwater Minute* is posted each week at our Facebook page and YouTube channel. To view the 100th episode plus other great episodes, go to http://youtu.be/-3VHSdaQFBE.

Sweetwater Minute
Scan this code with your mobile device to watch the 100th episode of the Sweetwater Minute. Or go to www.youtube.com/user/SweetwaterSound to see them all!

Hands On

Propellerhead Reason 6

By Mitch Gallagher

There's no software quite like Reason. For years, it's been a total synth/sample/loop workstation with sequencing, mixing, and effects processing — all with amazingly flexible routing options using virtual patch cables. But it has always lacked one thing: the ability to record real audio tracks, DAW-style. You could (and still can) ReWire Reason into your DAW of choice (I did it for years with Logic and Pro Tools), but that's not quite the same.

That has all changed with **Reason 6**. The new Reason incorporates the audio capabilities and modeled large-scale vintage mixing console from Record, Propellerhead's previous DAW software package. The blend of Record into Reason is seamless, and moves it to an entirely new level.

I received a beta version of Reason 6 for this article. I've been a Reason user since version one (actually, I started with ReBirth before that) and also a Record user. So I can tell you this: if you're familiar with the Prop-head software, you'll have no trouble diving right into Reason 6. And if you're new to Reason, the software is so straightforward and well designed, you'll be able to get right to work making music.

Of course, the recording/audio tracks aren't all that's new. Pulverizer (distortion/sound mangling), The Echo (advanced stereo echo), Alligator (3-band pattern-based gate), Neptune (vocal tuning and voice synth), and a greatly expanded factory sound bank are also included, along with many creativity-enhancing features. There's 64-bit support, comp editing, and so much more. Reason 6 is a huge update that builds on previous versions in so many ways. It is familiar, yet it's still a quantum leap ahead.

You can probably tell that I'm very excited about Reason 6. Reason has been my "synth rack" for many projects. But now, with audio recording/mixing and all of the other new features, Reason 6 has jumped to a new level in my software pantheon. I expect I'll be doing projects in all sorts of musical styles right within this one platform.

Powerful, fast, efficient, easy to use, flexible… with Reason 6, I predict many musicians and engineers are going to make the move to Propellerhead. Call your Sales Engineer or visit Sweetwater.com for more information!

>> **Propellerhead Reason 6**
Sweetwater price $399.99
www.sweetwater.com/reason6

Balance

Propellerhead has always been a software company. But with the release of Reason 6, they realized they needed an interface designed to integrate with their software — and **Balance** was born! Balance is a compact 2-channel USB 2.0 interface for Mac or Windows. It's designed to provide the hub for your studio. Hook up all your gear and set it on your desktop; you'll never need to move a cable. I had a chance to see a sneak preview of Balance in action, and I was very impressed — simple, ergonomic, compact, but full featured. Plus, Balance serves as the ignition key for authorizing your software, and it comes with Reason Essentials; all for less than $500.

Balance is tightly integrated into Reason 6 and makes an ideal interface for desktop studios. If you're a Reason user, you'll want this one.

Moving? Moved? Want more than one copy? Call, fax, or e-mail us your new address and don't miss an issue of *SweetNotes*!

Compact Recording Interfaces
with StudioLive Flexibility

PreSonus raises the bar for affordable audio interfaces, with their new **AudioBox VSL** lineup. Available in 2-, 4-, and 18-channel models that come loaded with PreSonus's award-winning Class A XMAX preamps, there's an AudioBox VSL interface for any-sized rig. But the hardware is only the beginning. These great-sounding USB audio interfaces give you the power and flexibility of PreSonus's amazing Virtual StudioLive software.

Have you ever tried to record vocals without having basic reverb or delay in the monitor mix? It's like trying to drive with one eye closed — you can do it, but it's not comfortable. True, most DAW software will allow you to add processing to your monitor outputs, but the considerable delay this adds can be disorienting instead of helpful. The included Virtual StudioLive software sits between your AudioBox VSL interface and your DAW, providing you with the near-zero-latency monitor processing typically found on only expensive DSP-powered interfaces. Now you can get the same pro-caliber monitoring options you'd expect from a pro studio, without the added expense of onboard DSP processing.

But that's not all! PreSonus's Virtual StudioLive software gives you the same high-quality Fat Channel dynamics processors and EQs featured in the StudioLive 16.0.2 recording mixer. You can even use these same processors to record and monitor, so you can produce polished recordings as you track. What's more, PreSonus's Virtual StudioLive software is fully compatible with their StudioLive Remote iPad app for hands-on control that's perfect for mixing and punching in from the vocal booth. To find out more about PreSonus's amazing AudioBox VSL interfaces, call your Sales Engineer today!

PreSonus

- **PreSonus AudioBox 1818VSL**
  Sweetwater price $499.95
  www.sweetwater.com/AudioBox1818VSL
- **PreSonus AudioBox 44VSL**
  Sweetwater price $299.95
  www.sweetwater.com/AudioBox44VSL
- **PreSonus AudioBox 22VSL**
  Sweetwater price $199.95
  www.sweetwater.com/AudioBox22VSL

Hands On
PreSonus StudioLive 16.0.2

PreSonus

By Mitch Gallagher

Recently, I spent time with the PreSonus 24.4.2 digital mixing console — the big dog in the PreSonus digital mixer family. I really enjoyed that console; it took me back to when I used a "real" board in my studio. The question was, would the new **StudioLive 16.0.2** digital mixer, the smallest member of the StudioLive family would stack up?

Well, I can tell you right now, it more than stacks up! The StudioLive 16.0.2 may be physically smaller than the 24.4.2, but that doesn't mean that it lacks power or features. With 16 channels, 16 line inputs, 12 mic preamps, four aux sends, and two built-in digital effects (with two additional dedicated sends and two stereo returns), the StudioLive 16.0.2 is equipped for a good-sized live sound situation. Plus, you get a full-featured gate, a compressor, a 3-band sweepable EQ, and a sweepable highpass filter on each channel; a talkback mic input with level control; two sets of stereo main outputs; a mono output; and stereo monitor and headphone outputs.

See It In Action

To see a video of the StudioLive 16.0.2 in use with Pro Tools 9, just scan this code with your mobile device!

In the studio, you can connect it to your computer via FireWire for remote control, setup, editing, and archiving purposes. (You can control everything from the mixer's front panel, but being able to see it all on-screen is very nice.) You can also use that same FireWire connection to route the 16 mixer inputs into your DAW, or to route 16 outputs from your DAW back into the mixer. The StudioLive 16.0.2 comes with PreSonus's Capture software for quick recordings, as well as their Studio One Artist software for applications that require a more full-featured DAW.

I used the 16.0.2 with my MacBook and the PreSonus software, but also with Reason 6 (see page 8) and Pro Tools 9. It worked flawlessly in each case. I used it for simple stereo monitoring, for multitracking, and for sending 16 channels out from the DAW for mixdown. I found working with the digital mixer in conjunction with a DAW is a true joy! I substituted the onboard EQ and compression for the plug-ins I was using on my mixes, as well as the two onboard effects processors for plug-in reverbs and delays. I was pleased with the results in every case! There's just something that works about using a real mixer with your DAW.

The combination of a laptop and the 16.0.2 (which doesn't have a much bigger footprint than the laptop itself) is a powerhouse — you could easily base your entire studio around this pairing. And you still have a great mixer to take out to live gigs. That all adds up to a tremendous value and a very cool mixer.

- **PreSonus StudioLive 16.0.2**
  Sweetwater price $1299.00
  www.sweetwater.com/SL1602

Customer Studio

The Music Group

If you're ever in the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, area, be sure to make a stop in nearby Edmond. There you'll find The Music Group, a studio complex with three pro-quality rooms, full production facilities, and two of the most personable studio owners you'll ever meet. L.G. Hamilton and Chris Freels were running their own independent operations when they decided to join forces in 2005. "We wanted to build a bigger facility than either of us could operate on our own," says L.G. "Now we compete with big-city studios." The studio's services include tracking, mixing, mastering, and even full music productions. The Music Group's Studio A is large enough to accommodate orchestral ensembles, and clients range from unsigned artists to established major-label acts. "We also do a lot of worship music projects," points out L.G., adding that the facility produces full-instrumentation backing tracks for Christian music companies. L.G. also mentions that the Oklahoma City area is a surprisingly fertile musical area. "There are a lot of young, talented musicians working on building careers here," he says. "It really is a great place to have a midsized studio."

The Music Group's studios boast an array of in-the-box and outboard processors, and an impressive collection of microphones, pianos, and keyboards. "Pro Tools|HD is a central part of our studio," says L.G. He adds that Jim Swain, his Sweetwater Sales Engineer, "has been a real help" with Pro Tools and gear questions in general. "I trust Jim because I know that he really knows what he's talking about," L.G. says. "When clients call for gear recommendations, I always tell them to call Jim."

Find out more about The Music Group at www.themusicgroupstudios.com.

Three Ideas That Make Sweetwater Different

In this issue, featured vendor Brad Lunde, the owner of Trans America Audio Group, offers his perspective on Sweetwater. His company distributes products from a variety of high-end audio manufacturers, including A Designs, Bock Microphones, Chameleon Labs, Daking, Dave Hill Designs, Drawmer, GML, Sonodyne, Soundfield, and Tube-Tech, as well as many others. I've known Brad personally for over 20 years, and I'm delighted that he's offered to contribute. Take it away, Brad:

> "There have been tremendous changes for professional audio dealers in the past 30 years. Years ago, there were many small local dealers who sold guitars and recording gear. Today, the gear has become so advanced that it's beyond the scope of most music store salespeople to understand it, much less explain how it all works. At the same time, customers' applications and needs have become far more specialized. The professional users of pro audio today are frustrated at how difficult it is to get an answer to 'what does this do?' or 'will this work in my situation?' Users are increasingly desperate to find *someone* who actually understands the product and knows how to use it.
>
> "This is a key area where Sweetwater has established themselves as being different — they've specialized in product knowledge and product application. In my 30 years in pro audio, I've never seen another company devote such a significant portion of total resources toward the ongoing education of its workforce. There exists at Sweetwater a clear goal of customer support through product and application understanding. This is so important to Chuck Surack and his top management that they built an entire 250-seat training theater and a professional recording studio inside Sweetwater's offices in Fort Wayne. As a manufacturer, I'm invited to Sweetwater to explain all the details of my products to the sales team *and* the entire Sweetwater staff. I can tell the story behind my product, why we did it, and what it's good for. I can use the studio to demonstrate one-on-one how to actually use the product in a real-world situation. I can also park a demo item in the Sweetwater Sales Department's Lending Library so that the sales staff can take it home and try it in their own studios! I see a commitment from Chuck Surack on down to make Sweetwater the most technically informed group of folks in pro audio. I believe this product focus is one of the key reasons they are successful.
>
> "Another major difference I see at Sweetwater is their long-term focus on connecting with customers. A training program teaches new employees to focus on understanding the customer — trying to grasp the customer's situation and determine what his or her long-term needs are. This differs from the 'get the money now' thinking that is so common today. At Sweetwater, Sales Engineers are actually encouraged to pass on a sale if it's not the right thing for the customer! This commitment to serving others is rare today, and it's another way that Sweetwater distinguishes itself from the pack.
>
> "The third difference at Sweetwater that impresses me is their commitment toward a very high standard of ethics. When a problem arises with a product or a customer, I hear the question 'what's the right thing to do here?' In my interactions with the staff, I see an action plan of honesty and ethical response. This is an ideal that's often talked about but rarely achieved, and it applies to customers, employees, vendors, and manufacturers. I know that in the past Sweetwater has even broken off relationships with manufacturers they felt did not echo their ethical standards — even if that break meant a major loss of revenue. That's a very high standard indeed.
>
> "These three ideas are a powerful combination of values that distinguish Sweetwater in the industry. I'm proud to work with Sweetwater and regard them as an outstanding representative of my products to the marketplace. It's a joy to see that the good guys do finish first sometimes!"

Thanks, Brad, for your take on Sweetwater.

Rock and Roll!

Jeff Radke
Executive Vice President of Sales

Welcome Pigtronix

Pigtronix is not your typical guitar effects maker. Starting with the original Envelope Phaser, Pigtronix pedals have been anything but conventional. According to David Koltai, president of Pigtronix, "With companies like BOSS and Dunlop to compete with, it seemed crazy to come out of the gate as a startup trying to compete on their terms." That's why Koltai and long-time friend Brian Bethke teamed up to form Pigtronix. They decided to focus exclusively on effects pedals that were unlike anything on the market.

Unique effects such as an envelope-controlled phase shifter, a parallel-distortion box, an ADSR dynamics generator, and a freakishly accurate pitch-tracking mono synth quickly made Pigtronix pedals popular among modern creative musicians. Driven by a never-ending quest to discover new kinds of effects, Koltai still turns to customer feedback for future design concepts. Andy Summers, Vernon Reid, Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Jack White, Adrian Belew, Bootsy Collins, Weezer, The Roots, Primus, and other artists have been instrumental in establishing Pigtronix as a top-level effects maker, both as customers and as sources of critical feedback.

In fact, legendary rocker Frank Marino encouraged Pigtronix's development of the Philosopher's Tone. The Philosopher's Tone — arguably the cornerstone of the Pigtronix lineup — is one of the most popular compression/sustain pedals ever made, renowned for its near-infinite sustain. Likewise, the brilliant NYC guitarist Craig Brodhead introduced Koltai to the idea of using the "Golden Ratio" as the basis of the rhythmic delay lines in the instantly musical Echolution delay pedal.

Other creative firsts for Pigtronix include their studio multi-tool, the Keymaster, which combines re-amping, A/B/Y switching, impedance matching, and summing into a single pedal. This amazing utility pedal is the perfect place to start if you've ever had a complex tone idea but didn't know where to start. And the Disnortion parallel-distortion pedal is widely considered one of the fattest-sounding distortions ever made, finding favor with such legendary players as Adrian Belew, Tony Levin, and Brad Whitford. If you're not already familiar with Pigtronix's amazing pedals, check out the videos and audio demos at Sweetwater.com, or call your Sales Engineer for more information.

To find out more about Pigtronix, check out www.sweetwater.com/store/manufacturer/Pigtronix.

Hands On Miktek C7

By Mitch Gallagher

Miktek has made serious inroads into the microphone world since the company was founded just a short time ago. Miktek manufactures handmade microphones inspired by the vintage mic models we all know and love. Their products are handmade in Nashville, Tennessee, right here in the USA.

Miktek sent me their **C7** condenser microphone for a spin in my studio. The C7 features a dual-capsule large-diaphragm design with 1", 5-micron diaphragms, each with a 0.4-micron evaporated-gold layer. It can operate in omnidirectional, cardioid, or bidirectional (figure-8) polar patterns. Other features include a 10dB pad and a highpass filter. The C7 is transformer based and requires 48V phantom power. Also included is a gorgeous wooden presentation case inside a road case, with a swivel mount and a shockmount.

I tried the C7 on several sources, including male vocals. In a word, it sounds excellent. The bottom end is full but tight. The top is smooth and sweet — we're not talking fizzy, hyped brightness here. The midrange is open and has real depth. The sound is detailed without being sterile; there's a roundness to the sound, but there's no lower-midrange "bloat." The dynamic response is outstanding.

The tracks I recorded with the C7 sat comfortably in my mix, without requiring much tweaking. If you place the mic well, the sounds you get will not require heavy EQing or shaping.

This is a top-quality American-made mic that doesn't cost a fortune. If you're looking to upgrade your mic locker, look no further!

>> **Miktek C7**
Sweetwater price $899.00
www.sweetwater.com/C7

Hands On Aphex Channel

By Mitch Gallagher

For great tracks, the first thing you need is the right microphone. Then you need a great front end to get that microphone's signal onto hard disk, memory card, or tape. That's where the new Aphex **Channel** comes in. It provides everything you need to optimize and process the signal coming from your microphone.

The Aphex Channel is a single-rackspace unit. It combines an RPA (reflected plate amplifier) tube preamp stage (with 48V phantom power, a 75Hz filter, and a 20dB pad), a parametric EQ, an Aural Exciter, and a Big Bottom bass processor, along with an EasyRider Class A compressor, a logic-assisted gate, and a split-band de-esser. It has an onboard analog-to-digital converter with AES/EBU (on XLR), S/PDIF (on RCA), and S/PDIF optical (on TOSlink) outputs, so you can route your signals straight from mic to Channel to DAW, with no additional digital/analog conversions. Word clock I/O is provided for locking digital signals together at sample rates up to 96kHz — you can use the Channel's internal clock, or you can lock to an external clock source. Both high-impedance (guitar or bass) and microphone-level inputs are supported.

Even with all of those functions, the Channel's front panel is clearly laid out and easy to navigate. Metering is provided for both input and compressor gain reduction.

In use, the Channel sounds great with both microphones and instruments. With the compressor and the Big Bottom/Aural Exciter, you can get outstanding bass sounds running direct (the parametric EQ helps to fine-tune the mids). Microphones are clear and present, and you have tons of options for optimizing the sound as you lay it down to tracks.

If you're looking for an all-in-one front-end solution, the Aphex Channel delivers — it's astounding how much power and flexibility you get in a single rack space! And the price is a fraction of what it would cost to purchase the equivalent units separately. Call your Sales Engineer to learn more!

>> Aphex Channel
Sweetwater price $999.00
www.sweetwater.com/Channel

A Sweetwater Welcome to Sonodyne

Sweetwater welcomes Sonodyne to our stellar lineup of studio monitors. Sonodyne is a company that is passionate about music and working with new technologies. In the late 1960s, an engineering student and entrepreneur named Ashoke Mukherjee decided to begin designing and selling stereo sound systems in India. By the 1970s, Sonodyne hi-fi stereo systems had been successfully embraced in India. This popularity led Sonodyne to establish the first audio R&D facility in India.

Over the years, Ashoke Mukherjee received accolades as an entrepreneur and a designer. Sonodyne became designers and manufacturers for many products for other companies, and their labs became well-known for their innovation. The company employs over 40 engineers and technicians who are dedicated to research. Sonodyne's driving force is creativity. They constantly strive to create optimal products for the high-end audio industry. The Sonodyne 50AK and 100AK studio monitors are no exception. Many customers worldwide rave about these monitors, and many award-winning producers use them. At Sweetwater, we're excited about these studio monitors and all that they offer. For more information about Sonodyne studio monitors, give your Sales Engineer a call!

Got Sitar?

Do you have a track that desperately needs a sitar? Session sitarists are not easy to find, and with its characteristic harmonic and dynamic slipperiness, the sitar is a tough instrument to emulate with a guitar pedal. Thankfully, there's the electro-harmonix **Ravish Sitar**, which distills the essence of the sitar into a compact enclosure, serving up a polyphonic lead voice and tunable sympathetic string drones that dynamically react to your playing. You can create your own custom scales for the sympathetic strings as well as set decay time for the lead voice. Two expression-pedal inputs let you simultaneously bend the pitch of the lead voice and control the volume of the sympathetic strings. Tweak the Ravish Sitar's powerful controls to conjure new organic instruments. With the electro-harmonix Ravish Sitar in your sonic palette, you might even start calling yourself "Mahavishnu."

>> Electro-Harmonix Ravish Sitar
Sweetwater price $239.25
www.sweetwater.com/RavishSitar

Meet Matt Adams

Name: Matt Adams

Position at Sweetwater: Sales Engineer

Start date: March 2006

Hired as: Sales Engineer

Education: BA from Taylor University

Where are you from originally? Fort Wayne, Indiana

What was your occupation before coming to Sweetwater? I did music production and arranging for various nonprofit organizations.

Why did you first apply for a job at Sweetwater? I was really drawn to furthering my knowledge through the training at Sweetwater, and using that knowledge to truly help people better pursue their passions.

Technical strengths: MIDI, sequencing

Favorite music-related website: Appleinsider

Instruments you play: Keyboard, guitar

Gear you own: Nord Stage EX; M-Audio Venom, DSM2 monitors; Mackie Onyx 1640i; Daking MicPreEQ; PreSonus Eureka with custom transformers (2), Studio One; Blue Robbie, Bottle Rocket Stage 2 with B7 and B7 caps, Woodpecker; Miktek C5; Earthworks SR30; Yamaha REV500; Groove Tubes Brick; Fender American Standard Strat with EMG David Gilmour pickups, Blues Jr.; Alvarez-Yairi 9-string acoustic; Langejans R6 acoustic; Waves Mercury; Avid Pro Tools.

Family info: I have a wife of 12 years, Holli, a 3-year-old son, Finley, and our most recent arrival — just arrived, in fact — our newborn son, Desmond.

Other stuff we should know about you (hobbies, talents, interests, etc.): I've been playing keyboard with the Sunny Taylor Band for the last two-plus years.

Favorite magazine: *Paste* magazine

Guilty pleasure of choice: Sci-fi flicks

How would your boss describe you? A get-it-done kind of guy

How would your best friend describe you? Loyal, fun loving

What did you dream about doing for a living when you were growing up? Funny enough, I really had hoped to be a dentist.

Describe the most dramatic situation in which you provided the Sweetwater Difference for a customer, or the most unusual/creative solution to a customer's problem: I had a customer buy a big sound system for a CD-release party. He got all the equipment setup and texted me at 10PM that the wireless mic wasn't working right. I got on the phone and helped him get it working.

What in your life best prepared you for the work you do here at Sweetwater? My love of music and technology. Everything in my life has prepared me to work here. When I got the opportunity to join the Sweetwater team, it just felt like the next right step.

What do you enjoy most about being part of the Sweetwater team? I work with some of the most talented people I have ever been around. What I love most about my job is that I have gotten to know some truly wonderful people in my customers.

What is the most important thing you've learned at Sweetwater? To trust myself.

Sweetwater
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